

HALTING INDUSTRY.

"The Wolf" in the Manufacturing Districts.

Statistics of Lowell—Thrift and Poverty.

LOWELL, Mass., Feb. 20, 1874.

This city, one of the great manufacturing centres of the East, has been unusually successful during the recent financial struggles, and in fact is doing even a larger business than it ever carried on before. Of course, a thriving city will always contain a certain amount of pauperism, but the applications for help appear chiefly to come from strangers who have been attracted by the prosperous reports in the hope of obtaining work.

Mayor Jewett.

In his inaugural address says: "No pestilence has visited us; no general depression of business has seriously disturbed the rewards of industry. We begin another year with the productive capacity of our immense manufactories and extensive machine and workshops greatly enlarged, with the trade of our merchants increased in amount and profit, with a population greater by hundreds of families and thousands of souls; with new and beautiful buildings covering our hitherto vacant lands; with large and magnificent blocks rising along the lines of our principal streets; with an accumulated wealth capable of easily yielding a tax sufficient for our needs and with indications of a permanent future growth in thrift and population promising to gratify our most ardent wishes. The financial depression of the country has only lightly and, we trust, temporarily affected us, and will not seriously disturb our prosperity or retard our growth. It has produced but a slight diminution in the price of labor; but, even this loss, we must remember, falls heavily upon the poor man, whose income was already strained to its utmost tension to meet his daily wants, and so we should the more earnestly hope that its effects are but transitory and that the wall of poverty will not long sadden the joyous hum of busy industry."

It is now nearly forty years since Lowell was first laid out, and until within the last few years it has been a place of minor importance. Finally capital was introduced and the foundation laid for the great works that now give daily employment to about 10,000 women and 6,000 men.

During the past few months, when many of the great commercial centres of the East and West have been the scene of a general depression of business, and instead of stopping work altogether, kept most of her mills running on half time so as to afford bread at least to the operatives. This movement had a beneficial effect and kept the working population at home instead of driving them to the overcrowded cities to swell the throng that were already clamoring for work.

THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF LABOR, however, did not last more than about five or six weeks, and before the middle of December the mills were nearly all running on full time. The managers, however, before resuming the regular work, held a meeting and reduced the wages of the operatives from eight to ten per cent. This they claim was a necessity, that it was impossible to avoid it, although to many it appeared an unjust extortion, as at that very time some of the mills had so much work on hand that they were working night and day to fill their orders. Ten per cent was the main reduction, \$18 per week, or about the girl with a weekly cost of about \$1.50, and consequently felt more or less. Many of the hands here are in tolerably good circumstances, they have saved money and live in comfortable little houses bought from their hard earnings. They are located on the outskirts of the city, and to the mill is only a short distance. As a rule, a saving class it is only necessary to call attention to the fact that they are not a class of people that certainly would not exist unless they had a fair show of support.

It took a drive yesterday around the different mills and machine shops, and from every quarter heard cheerful and encouraging news.

As all is not sunshine and roses, however, the following table, showing the amount of help employed by some of the principal corporations in 1873 and 1874, is officially correct:

1873. 1874.

Hammond Manufacturing Co. 1,200 700

Lowell Manufacturing Co. 800 400

Appleton Manufacturing Co. 1,000 500

Lowell Manufacturing Co. 1,000 500

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CITY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE.

East Side.

\$16,500 FOR THREE STORY BROWN STONE private residence, west of Lexington street, near Park avenue; \$50,000 for a full front house on Madison avenue.

CRAWFORD, 953 Third Avenue.

West Side.

A BARGAIN—THREE FOUR STORY HIGH brick house, with full basement, on Lexington street, near Park avenue; also three story brick house, with full basement, on Lexington street, near Park avenue; also three story brick house, with full basement, on Lexington street, near Park avenue.

A FULL LOT—WEST SIDE, SEVENTH AVENUE, 100 feet front, 100 feet deep, on Lexington street, near Park avenue; also three story brick house, with full basement, on Lexington street, near Park avenue; also three story brick house, with full basement, on Lexington street, near Park avenue.

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